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20.—*Lessons in Life. A Series of Familiar Essays.* By TIMOTHY TITCOMB, Author of “Letters to the Young,” “Gold-Foil,” etc. New York: Charles Scribner. 1861. 12mo. pp. 344.

WE have too long neglected Dr. Holland, or rather we have let his books—such of them as have come into our hands—pass with brief notice, without attempting to define his place and express his value as an important and influential integer in American literature. We now have in our drawer, and hope to take from it for our next number, a review of his works collectively. Meanwhile, we would commend this new volume, as rich both in wit and in wisdom. The author is capable of the keenest sarcasm; but words else like “drawn swords” are tempered by the genuine kindness of his purpose and the warmth of his humane sympathies.

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21.—*A Memorial of Closing Scenes in the Life of REV. GEORGE B. LITTLE.* Cambridge. 1861. 8vo. pp. 171.

MR. LITTLE was a native of Castine, Maine, a graduate of Bowdoin College, an alumnus of the Andover Theological Seminary, pastor of the First Congregational Church in Bangor for eight years, and for the last two or three years of his life pastor of a church at West Newton. Early in 1860, having been previously in feeble health, he was seized with hemorrhage from the lungs. Slightly, or hardly, convalescent, he was induced in the ensuing March to seek renewed health by a sea voyage and a residence in France. The change of air and scene did not even arrest his rapid decline. His homeward voyage was attended with severe suffering, and on his arrival it was apparent to him and to every one else that his days were numbered. He died on the 20th of July, 1860, in the thirty-ninth year of his age. In the fragmentary sketches that make up this volume, he incidentally appears as a man of superior taste and culture; the little that we learn of him as a minister betokens the best gifts both for the public and the private duties of his office; and in all the relations in which we are permitted to view him he impresses us as blending to an unusual degree the stronger and the gentler elements of the Christian character. But of all this we have only hints and glimpses. The interest of the book centres upon the last scenes of his life. And they were wonderfully rich and full in their perpetual expression of faith and trust. Circumstances were so ordered as at once to test to the utmost, and to exhibit in their most beautiful and attractive forms, the traits of his religious character. From the moment of his first attack, he distinctly foresaw the fatal result, and we

perceive in his recorded words no proof that he at any time expected restoration, so that he was destitute of that peculiar type of hopefulness which almost always accompanies pulmonary consumption, and which often makes it impossible to arouse to a sense of peril one already within the shadow of death. His mental powers were unimpaired almost to the last, and during the closing weeks we discern even traces of unwonted brilliancy of thought and utterance. What we have then, in this "Memorial," is the narrative, recorded daily by loving friends, of a six months' Christian experience during a conscious passage graveward and heavenward,—in fine, the prolonged and diversified exhibition of what is ordinarily witnessed only for a brief space on the near approach of the Christian's death-hour. Such a record is of itself adequate evidence of the Divine origin and the almightyess of Christianity. Such scenes are more than argument; they are manifestation; they are the uplifting of the veil. We can no more doubt the eternal life which breathes all along through the protracted death in life of the disciple whose image is now placed before us, than we can doubt the dates and external facts of his biography. And were all other testimonies wanting, had not history or analogy a word in behalf of Christianity, we would bow down before it as the power and wisdom of God, because death owns its majesty, the destroying angel retires baffled from the conflict with it, and the shout of its triumph drowns the dirge-notes that come up from the caverns of the grave.

This book, from the Riverside press, appears in a form of great beauty, and is enriched by a lifelike photograph of Mr. Little. We understand that it was printed for private circulation. We sincerely hope that it will be published in such guise as may make it a means of widely extended edification and usefulness.

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22.—*A Translation of the Syriac Peshito Version of the Psalms of David; with Notes Critical and Explanatory.* By the Rev. ANDREW OLIVER, M. A. Boston: E. P. Dutton & Co. 1861. 16mo. pp. 331.

WE cannot read the Peshito, and therefore will not undertake to criticise Mr. Oliver's translation of it. But from the style of his notes, from his evident mastery of the Hebrew, and his skilful handling of the Septuagint, we infer the thoroughness and accuracy of his scholarship. We attach a very high importance to the Peshito version of the Old Testament; first, on account of its absolute antiquity, as corresponding to the received Hebrew text in the first or second century of our era; secondly, on account of its relative antiquity in comparison with that of